

Middlewich Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1951

by the

Medical Officer of Health

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1951.

Section A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	1,956 acres
Population — Registrar General's latest estimate of population		6,696
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	2,006
Rateable Value	£30,548
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 120 5s. 0d.	

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	106	58	48
Illegitimate	3	1	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.27.

Still Births:—

Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births, 43.85.

Deaths 77 41 36

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.49.

After adjustment by the Comparability Factor, 12.29.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 27.52

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.30

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages) 14

The following table compares the main statistics for 1951 with the years 1940-1950:—

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1940	... 6,199	13.87	13.84	58.13	12	—
1941	... 6,435	18.18	10.72	58.82	10	1
1942	... 6,254	20.94	10.71	53.43	7	4
1943	... 6,097	20.82	10.82	23.62	9	1
1944	... 6,020	21.59	12.62	38.46	12	6
1945	... 5,926	21.26	11.47	55.55	11	2
1946	... 6,206	21.10	9.82	22.90	8	2
1947	... 6,372	27.46	11.45	40.00	11	3
1948	... 6,576	19.6	9.12	23.81	10	1
1949	... 6,587	14.7	9.41	10.3	10	3
1950	... 6,672	17.38	11.99	51.72	9	1
1951	... 6,696	16.27	11.49	27.52	14	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—1951

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	4	6	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	12
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	3	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	7	5	12
21. Other circulatory disease	—	2	2
22. Influenza	6	—	6
23. Pneumonia	—	1	1
24. Bronchitis	4	—	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	1	—	1
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
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TOTALS	41	36	77
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Section B—General Provision of Health Services of the Area

(A) PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(1) Staff

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared by the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the N. & M-C. H.M.C.)
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole- time)	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid - Cheshire Dis- tricts.)
F. Costello, A.R., San. I., Cert.S.I.B., Cert.Insp.of Meat and other Foods	Whole-time Sanitary Inspector	(Middlewich Urban District Council only.)

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year.

(3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services: School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic Ophthalmic, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services.

**(C) PROVIDED BY THE MID-CHESHIRE
DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
(under the auspices of the County Council)**

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following services:—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes

The work done during the year 1951 in Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows:—

Diphtheria Immunisation:

No. of children who have completed treatment during 1951	75
--	----

In addition, 78 booster injections were given.

Vaccinations:

No. of children who have been vaccinated during 1951	14
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Immunisation against Whooping Cough Nil

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was curtailed during the year owing to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the Country. It was thought advisable to discontinue mass immunisation from August until the end of October.

A certain number of children received the protective treatment at their own Doctors' Surgeries and at home. The protective treatment against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service

The service provided in the area, primarily for Mid-Cheshire, has dealt with the Middlewich cases expeditiously and without complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After Care

A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service

Though here again this service is fully utilised in the Mid-Cheshire area, the demand for domestic assistance has been very low in the Middlewich town itself.

(D) ISOLATION HOSPITAL SERVICES

Davenham Isolation Hospital under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases.

Section C—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition. At the beginning of the year only one house was supplied from a private source. A sample taken from this private source showed pollution and action was promptly taken to procure a supply from the Public Mains. At the end of the year work was in progress in the taking of a service pipe to supply this house with pure water.

There are no standpipes in the district, all houses having their own water taps supplied from the mains. Eight other bacteriological reports on the Town's Supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board and the Public Health Laboratory, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the sewers were extended as follows:—

New Housing Site—

	Foul Sewer	262 yards of 9in. pipes
Moss Drive	Storm Sewer	280 yards of 9in. pipes
	Storm Sewer	75 yards of 6in. pipes
(Moss Drive is a section of the Chadwick Fields Estate which was acquired two years ago as a housing site).		

No other works beyond maintenance was carried out to the sewers or main sewage works during the year.

The small sewage plant at Cledford, which takes drainage from about 50 houses, was thoroughly cleaned out and new filtering media provided. The bulk of the tank covering was replaced by concrete slabs.

Closet Accommodation

Two pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, leaving 43 pails and 4 privies still in use.

Sewage Works (proposed new ones)

During the year the Council considered a number of proposals from a Consultant Engineer regarding a site for new sewage works. A Committee, set up for the purpose, inspected the various sites and a recommendation was made to the Consultant who was asked to proceed with the formulation of a scheme on a site chosen and to submit an estimate of the cost. This work was proceeding at the end of the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection of refuse is by means of a Shelvoke and Drewry freighter.

Informal notices were complied with for the renewal of 156 new dustbins.

The refuse tip was free from any nuisance and a fair quantity of surplus "diggings" was received which was used as cover.

Income from the sales of salvage was in the region of £1,750, of which approximately £1,100 was profit.

Camping Sites

A licence was issued for one caravan to occupy a site for a period of one year. There are no other sites licensed in the district.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

The Council employs a Rodent Operative under the control of the Sanitary Inspector, but there is insufficient work to warrant his services on a full-time basis. Accordingly he is employed on other work part-time, but Rodent Control takes priority.

This work is well under control, since all Factories, Business Premises, etc., have agreed to the Council carrying out this work on their behalf and they pay the Council's charges. Dwelling houses are treated free of cost.

During the year 36 treatments were given at Business Premises, 68 to dwellings, 12 to the refuse tip and 8 to water courses, etc. All the foregoing treatments were for minor infestations only.

A 10 per cent. test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from rat infestation.

Recreational Fields and Open Spaces

All existing playgrounds were maintained without any change, with the exception of the Fountain Fields site where work commenced in the construction of Tennis Courts, a Bowling Green and a Miniature Golf Course.

Factories Inspections

Under the Factories Act, 1937, the following inspections were carried out:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	36	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	36	36	1	—

It was only necessary to issue one notice in respect of defects at Factories in this area. This notice which was complied with was for the provision of doors to each closet and for a thorough cleaning of such closets.

Section D—Housing

Provision of New Houses

The progress made in the Council's Housing Programme during the year 1951 reads as follows:—

By Local Authority:—

Permanent Houses	82
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By Private Enterprise:—

Permanent Houses	8
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—
90
—

(The number of houses in the district now exceeds 2,000 for the first time).

During the year the following action was taken with regard to houses which were considered to be incapable of repair at reasonable cost:—

Section 11—Housing Act, 1936.

Nos. 35 & 39a, Chester Road —Condemned, demolished and site cleared.

No 13, Wych-house Lane —(Informal action with the Owner)
—Tenant re-housed by the Council, house demolished and site cleared.

No. 11, Kinderton St. —This house became vacant and an undertaking was received from the owner agreeing not to re-let same, and to demolish, together with adjoining house No. 9, at such time as the latter house became vacant.

The houses of the district were adequately inspected during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspector, and the following notices were complied with:—

Defective drains	17
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Defective closets	27
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Repairs to roofs and spouting	9
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Defective firegrates	6
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New windows	5
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Defective plasterwork	11
Renewal of defective sinks	3
Walls re-pointed	5
Renewals of dustbins	156
Closet conversions	2
Nuisance from Pig keeping	1

8 Statutory Notices and 210 Informal Notices were complied with during the year.

Section E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

During the year 19 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

- (1) Graded Milks for compliance with prescribed standards:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised Milk	8	—
T.T. Pasteurised Milk ...	5	—
T.T. Milk	5	—
(2) Cleanliness Tests of Ungraded Milks	1	—
	—	—
	19	—
	—	—

Two Dealers are licensed to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milks. Another Dealer was issued with Supplementary Licences to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milk. There is only one retailer in the area delivering milk which is ungraded.

(b) Meat

There is one licensed slaughterhouse working for “Casualties” and one other licensed for the slaughter of pigs. Both have been maintained in a cleanly condition.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned at the Casualty Slaughterhouse

	Cattle excl. Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3	398		121	2	9
Number inspected	3	398		121	2	9
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	37		7	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	41		—	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	19.6%		5.79%	50%	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	25		—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	133		—	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis .	—	39.7%		—	—	—

(c) Other Foods and Ice Cream

All premises where food is prepared or handled have been regularly inspected throughout the year and such inspections revealed a satisfactory state of affairs.

Bye-Laws were adopted under Section 15—Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the clean handling of food. A copy of the bye-laws was handed to the proprietors of all premises handling food by the Sanitary Inspector who explained the provisions of same. In addition, all such premises were regularly inspected to ensure compliance with the bye-laws.

In accordance with a Circular letter issued by the Ministry of Food in October, 1951, notices have been displayed in all food stores, etc. requesting customers not to bring dogs into premises in which food is sold. These notices were welcomed by the business proprietors concerned.

Condemnation Notes were issued in respect of the following:—

196 lb. Boiled Ham (imported)
 41 tins Luncheon Meat
 36 tins Breakfast Fry
 1 tin Whalesteak
 30 tins Cherries
 3 tins Carrots
 9 tins Peas
 2 tins Beans
 26 tins Fruit
 21 lb. Cake
 68 lb. Bacon

In addition, the following based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1951:—

Name of Sample	Number obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Camphorated oil	1	—
Castor oil	2	—
Coconut (desiccated)	2	—
Glauber salts	1	—
Gum (Chewing)	1	—
Milk (fresh)	13	—
Mustard	1	—
Vinegar (malt)	2	—
	—	—
TOTAL	23	—
	—	—

No cases of food poisoning in the district were notified during 1951.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district (neither hot nor cold mix), and the only ice cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc.

Whilst the Sandbach Sanitary Inspector was on holiday the Council's Sanitary Inspector took over the inspection of meat at the M.O.F. Slaughterhouse at Sandbach for two weeks.

Section F—Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1951

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	48	—	—

Most of the measles cases occurred in children between 4 and 6 years of age and for the most part they were scholars at the Church of England School. The cases occurred in the period March/May, 1951.

(2) Tuberculosis

The table below details the age of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis:—

TUBERCULOSIS New Cases and Mortality during 1951

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
42	46	50	60	58	48	48	43	46	44	45	27

The big reduction of the tuberculosis cases on our register during the year is accounted for primarily by the recovery of 15 non-pulmonary cases.

(3) Mass Radiography

In last year's report the visit of the Regional Hospital Board's Mass Radiography Unit to the town was mentioned. Comments in the report on this visit may be of interest and read as follows:—

- “1. (a) The very satisfactory industrial response rate (72 per cent.). This may have been due, to some extent, to the fact that most of the examinees were X-rayed on their own firm's premises. It was found necessary to visit most of the works, even though they were only medium sized Units, due to the distance between the various factories.
- (b) The response from the public was not so satisfactory, but the working population represents a fairly high proportion of the total population.
2. The incidence of active pulmonary tuberculosis—a finding of 0.5 per 1,000 examined is very low, especially in view of the high response rate obtained.”

(4) Scabies and Verminous Infestation

As there appeared to be a complete disappearance of Scabies infestation in the area, the Joint Cleansing Centre which had been operating since 1942 was closed down. The premises and major items of equipment have, however, been retained should their use again ever become necessary.

(5) Disinfection of Premises

The disinfection of 4 homes was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection, or destruction of bedding).

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

August, 1952



